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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0913**

March 14, 2020

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

DEFENSE

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

ENVIRONMENT

Mark Emmert, President  
National Collegiate Athletic Association

Dear President Emmert,

Given the national health crisis we face from COVID-19, your actions to halt all winter and spring NCAA championships were prudent and fully justified.<sup>®</sup> This is a global pandemic, and the health and well being of our student athletes and the American people are paramount.

As a Florida State University (FSU) alumnus and fan, I have enjoyed the extraordinary women's and men's basketball seasons. The men's team in particular is having one of their greatest seasons ever -- earning their first ACC regular season championship, ranked number four in the nation. For Seminole nation, it is a bittersweet moment.

To that end, I would ask that you remain open-minded on holding at least some version of March Madness if and when the public health risk subsides. Not just because of my personal interest in the success of my beloved Seminoles, but because of how popular the tournament is by millions of Americans. We need something to cheer for, quite frankly, in these uncertain times. And a full or modified tournament, for both men's and women's basketball, might be just what we all need when this crisis passes. I suspect many of the kids and coaches who have poured their hearts and souls into this season would also gladly welcome the chance to compete for their one shining moment.

I greatly appreciate your diligent efforts to advance and strengthen college athletics, especially during these challenging times. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist  
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN